

Message Text

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72

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 AF-10 ACDA-19

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R 071336Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7100

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4069

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF

SUBJ: PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL

SUMMARY. ARAFAT IS FACING SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL (PNC), BUT WILL PROBABLY EMERGE WITH HIS MINIMUM REQUIREMENT; NAMELY, APPROVAL OF LAST POINT OF TEN-POINT PROGRAM WHICH WOULD GIVE HIM FLEXIBILITY TO ACT AS HE JUDGES BEST. PFLP UNLIKELY TO BREAK AWAY AT THIS TIME. ARAFAT REPORTEDLY STILL VERY EAGER FOR USG TO MAKE SOME GESTURE TOWARD PLO, SUCH AS INFORMAL MEETING WITH AMERICAN OFFICIAL. END SUMMARY.

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1. FOLLOWING IS CHIEFLY FROM WELL-INFORMED JOURNALISTS COVERING

PNC. PNC MEMBERS ARRIVED TOO LATE FROM VISIT TO CANAL JUNE 6 TO CONVENE COMMITTEE SESSIONS AS PLANNED. FIRST COMMITTEE MEETINGS BEGIN JUNE 7 AND FINAL PLENARY WILL PROBABLY BE ON JUNE 9. ALTHOUGH UNWIELDY SIZE OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE (82) MAKES USEFUL DEBATE UNLIKELY, DELEGATES DO INTEND TO TACKLE PROBLEM OF TEN POINTS. PFLP IS TO SUBMIT OWN TEN POINTS FOR CONSIDRATION. PFLP LIST IS PREDICTABLY DESIGNED TO FOIL PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA, AND INCLUDES REWRITE OF ALL POINTS NOT CONTRIBUTED BY PFLP TO "OFFICIAL" TEN POINTS. THUS, IN PFLP DRAFT, NATIONAL PALESTINIAN UNITY REQUIRES CONTINUATION OF "ARMED" STRUGGEL, AND POINT 5 REFERS TO NECESSITY OF TOPPLING "LACKEY HASHEMIE REGIME". PFLP'S TAYSIR KUB'A TOLD JOURNALISTS OUTSIDE COUNCIL HALL THAT PFLP INSISTS ON FIGHTING TO BITTER END.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ARAFAT IS CHIEFLY CONCERNED TO OBTAIN RATIFICATION OF TENTH POINT WHICH WOULD GIVE HIM FLEXIBILITY, SINCE IT CAN BE INTERPRETED AS MANDATE TO CARRY ON AS HE THINKS BEST. HE FACES OPPOSITION FROM CERTAIN ELEMENTS, LED BY YUSUF SAYEGH, WHO ARE PUSHING FOR RECONVENING OF PNC BEFORE GENEVA CONFERENCE TO ASSESS DESIRABILITY OF ATTENDING. ABU IYAD, HOWEVER, HAS MADE SPEECH ENDORSING THIS IDEA BUT WITH PROVISIO THAT RECONVENING NECESSARY ONLY IF "WORLD CONDITIONS CHANGE". ARAFAT PRESUMABLY WOULD SUPPORT THIS LOOSE FORMULATION.

3. ARAFAT DEFINITELY CONTINUES TO FACE STRONG OPPOSITION. WE READ AHMAD BAH AL-DIN'S FRIDAY COLUMN IN AHRAM JUNE 7 AS REFLECTING SOME GOE CONCERN ABOUT LACK OF PROGRESS. PNC DEBATES, HE WRITES, HAVE APPROACHED GENEVA AND NATIONAL AUTHORITY ISSUES WITH GREAT TIMIDITY, PLACING CAUSE IN SUCH "FETTERS" THAT PALESTINIAN ROLE AT THIS DECISIVE HOUR LIKELY TO BE RENDERED MARGINAL. PALESTINE REVOLUTION SHOULD NOT EXPECT INVITATION TO GENEVA, BUT SHOULD BEAT ON DOOR TO DEMAND ADMISSION, SINCE FOCAL POINT IN STRUGGLE IS PALESTINE.

4. AT PRESENT, BETTING HERE IS THAT ARAFAT WILL GET APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION INCLUDING TENTH POINT, AND MAY BE ABLE TO TURN OFF DEMAND THAT PNC MEET AGAIN BEFORE GENEVA. PFLP REPS ARE REPORTEDLY TO BE READY TO ACCEPT THIS COMPROMISE, OR AT MINIMUM WILL NOT BREAK WITH PLO AT THIS TIME. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ARAFAT STILL HOPES TO STRENGTHEN HIS POSITION BY OBTAINING TANGIBLE EVIDENCE
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OF USG INTEREST IN TALKING TO PLO; SPECIFICALLY, AN INVITATION TO GENEVA OR AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEETING WITH A USG REPRESENTATIVE.
EILTS

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